

## FEWER CHILDREN IN ABOUT 150,000

State School Statistics Show  
Some Remarkable  
Figures.

SOME OF THEM WRONG.

Their Compiler Admits This of  
Those Covering the Attend-  
ance at Private Schools.

Albany, Jan. 16.—State Superintendent of Public Instruction Charles R. Skinner has issued a comparative statement of school statistics for the school year 1898. Its most remarkable feature is the decrease of 150,141 in the number of children from five to eighteen years of age. Of this number 113,476 are in the cities, and 36,665 in the rural districts. The Superintendent says:

"The abnormal decrease in the number of school children in cities is found entirely in the reports from the city of New York. The census for October, 1897, was taken under State authority, while the statistics for 1896-97 were necessarily estimated from the census of children between five and twenty-one years. In 1897 the number of school children in cities was 1,113,890, while in 1898 the number is but 1,000,423."

The great decrease is believed to be due to the change in the manner of estimate, in the former period the maximum limit being twenty-one years.

The decrease of 36,665 in the number of school children in the country is thus accounted for by Superintendent Skinner.

"The abnormal decrease reported is due to the transfer of the wealthy and populous sections comprising Richmond County and a large portion of Queens County from the Commissioner's districts to the city of New York."

The following are the statistics given in the statement:

Number of school districts, 17,752; increase, 14; number of schoolhouses, 11,883; increase, 22; value of schoolhouses and sites, \$71,822,511; increase, \$1,711,111; number of children of school age, 1,518,890; decrease, 150,141; number of children attending school some portion of the year, 1,108,294; decrease, 34,205; average daily attendance, 827,062; increase, 7,508; aggregate daily attendance, 154,286,009; increase, 1,894,651; average length of school term, 176 days; increase, 2 days; average number of days each pupil attended, 132; increase, 5 days; number of children attending private schools, 104; decrease, 10; number of children attending private schools, 81,448; decrease, 91,921.

The Superintendent says the figures relative to the number of children attending private schools are evidently unreliable.

Other statistics are:

Number of teachers employed 169,269; increase, 740; number of teachers employed some portion of the year, 33,078; increase, 1,812; men, 2,264; women, 30,814; average salary, \$1,518.89; increase, \$518.76; increase, \$21.82; value of school libraries, \$57,100; increase, \$24,707; expenditure for teachers' salaries, \$1,518,890; increase, \$99,218; expenditure for buildings, sites and school equipments, \$11,883; increase, \$12,871; expenditure for school libraries, \$1,894,651; increase, \$1,203; total expenditures, \$26,475,871; increase, \$1,789,015.

## FIFTH AVENUE WAS BLOCKED FOR HOURS.

Impenetrable Tangle of Stylish Equip-  
ages and Common Carts at Forty-  
second Street.

It is not often that such a blockade of carriages is seen as managed to form on Fifth avenue yesterday afternoon. It extended from Fortieth street to Forty-fourth street, and continued from noon until after 3 p. m. As soon as a few vehicles managed to wriggle out of the tangle others succeeded in getting mixed up in it. In the jam were victorias, broughams and coupes, with stylishly dressed women sitting inside. There were also hacks and hansoms, and trucks and carts loaded with all sorts of unsightly things, all massed together, each trying to find an opening to work out.

The cause of the trouble was at the Forty-second street horse car crossing, where men were repairing the asphalt. They had ripped it up until only a short space was left for vehicles to pass. But one at a time could pass in either direction. Unconsciously drivers led their horses right into the midst of the trouble, and when they attempted to turn back, found it impossible. To the driver approaching it seemed nothing more than a simple block, which would be quickly cleared. Led on by that idea, the difficulty was increased. At about 2:30 p. m. the blockade was made complete, and the drivers were held in the tangle, unable to move any way, for fully three-quarters of an hour. The laborers at work finally succeeded in laying planks and heavy timbers over the excavation. The whole avenue was then opened for traffic and the work of repairing the asphalt was abandoned until tonight.

## FATHER AND SON BEAT A POLICEMAN.

Totally Unprovoked Assault Upon a  
Bluecoat with a Good  
Record.

Policeman Bernard F. Devine, of the Central Park squad, is ill at his home, with his face swollen to twice its natural size, both eyes closed and discolored, his nose broken and his body covered with bruises. The assault occurred on Sunday evening, at No. 94 White street, which is the headquarters of the Young Men's Catholic Club, of which Devine is a member. Daniel Shea is the janitor.

As Devine entered the hallway of the club he saw a man who he did not recognize lying apparently drunk upon the floor, and raised him to his feet. Instantly he was felled by a blow from the man he had raised, who proved to be Dennis Shea, a son of the janitor, recently returned from the war.

While the policeman was lying on the ground the elder Shea hurried down the stairs and joined his son in striking and kicking him. Devine is forty years old, and has been on the force nine years. He was perfectly sober, and is known as a most peaceable man. He lives with his family at No. 312 Spring street. The Sheas were locked up.

## MULDON'S COUNT'S HONOR.

Arrested, but Paroled by the Judge on  
His Promise to Return.

"Parole me and I will return like a French soldier," said Count Urbania J. Leger to Judge Schatz at the Court of Special Sessions, in Mount Vernon, yesterday. The Judge looked at the Count for a minute. "I believe you have been a soldier," he said, "and I will trust to your honor."

Count Leger is a Frenchman. He is tall, athletic and has a military bearing. He says he was an officer in the Chasseurs, but gave up his commission and came to this country a year ago. For eleven months he has been in charge of the training quarters and trainers at William Muldoon's establishment at White Plains. He is in receipt of an income from his family in France. About a month ago he married a Mount Vernon woman. Yesterday she had him arrested charged with abandonment. The Count asked to be paroled in order to see his lawyer, and as has been said the Judge trusted him.

## EDDY'S MAYOR TELLS US WHAT A CITY SHOULD BE.

CORRUPT BUSINESS MEN, Says  
Mayor Jones, Cause the  
Social Distress.

IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE.

Authorities Believed the Lad Had  
Drowned, but He Reached  
His Aunt's Home.

Harry McDonald, sixteen years of age, whose parents live at No. 202 West Seventy-fourth street, was arraigned in the Court of Special Sessions three weeks ago on the charge of larceny. He had pawned something which did not belong to him. He stood before the bar downcast, spiritless, miserable, a petty thief convicted.

The Gerry society took hold of his case and Harry was sent to the House of Refuge on Randall's Island, where he was to remain until he was a much older and better boy.

Last Friday night the petty larcener, the miserable young outcast, the despair of his father and mother, accomplished a physical feat of endurance, daring and courage which, had it been done in a worthy cause, would have made Harry an unrepentable hero.

He had escaped from the island, and, although the night was one of the coldest of the year, although in the holocausts of the city, although the streets were blocks of ice, although the distance to be swum, allowing for the tide, was a mile and a half, landed successfully on the shore of a country that did not belong to him.

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## SPACE CHOKED RIVER TO FREEDOM

Marvellous Feat of a Boy  
Who Escaped from Ran-  
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## HER HUSBAND ILL, SHE PREACHED.

Mrs. Lovejoy Filled a Mount  
Vernon Pulpit at the  
Last Moment.

ASKED TO PREACH AGAIN.

Mr. Lovejoy Came from the West  
as a Candidate for a Call  
and Fell Sick.

Mrs. Minnie Lovejoy fulfilled the words of the Bible on Sunday in being a help to her husband. He was taken sick at the eleventh hour and she occupied his place in the pulpit of the First Congregational Church, in Mount Vernon. Her sermon took an hour to deliver.

Mrs. Lovejoy made such a favorable impression on the congregation that she has been specially invited to fill the pulpit again next Sunday. She is slightly built, has classic features and a high, intellectual forehead.

The Rev. Owen R. Lovejoy is a minister at St. John's, Mich. He is a candidate for the pastorate of the First Congregational Church, in Mount Vernon, vacated by the Rev. Charles F. Brooks several weeks ago. Mr. Lovejoy caught a cold on the journey from Michigan, and on Sunday morning was suffering an acute attack of the grip. A physician declared it would be dangerous for him to leave the house. It was too late for the trustees of the church to secure another minister, and in this emergency Mrs. Lovejoy offered to take her husband's place.

Mrs. Lovejoy had never preached before, but, of course, was familiar with the conduct of the church. The church was crowded with people who came expecting to hear Mr. Lovejoy.

Lovejoy took for her text the fourth verse of the fifth chapter of I. John.

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Mrs. Lovejoy's voice was clear and her delivery impressive.

At the close of the services Mrs. Lovejoy was surrounded by the ladies, members of the church and congratulated.

It is generally said that the result of Mrs. Lovejoy's appearance in the pulpit will be a call to her husband to the pastorate of the church. Mr. Lovejoy is improving in health.

Publications.

## HERO WORSHIP ON A GOLDEN ROCK.

If Plain Heroes' Medals Are  
to Be Silver, So Must  
the Mayor's Be.

THEY ALL SAVED A LIFE.

Van Wyck's Friends' Excess of  
Zeal Causes a Hitch in the  
Programme.

New York's Volunteer Life Saving Association had made arrangements to reward three heroes, of whom one was Mayor Van Wyck.

Silver medals, commemorative of the act by which the three saved two young women from drowning at Bergen Beach on August 3, were ready for presentation in due form. To add honor to honor it was determined that the ceremony take place in the City Hall in the sanctifying presence of the Board of Aldermen and Secretary "Al" Downs.

It was to have been a noble ceremony, but, alas! undue zeal on the part of the Mayor's true friends muddled the whole scheme. Out of the distinguished love they bear the Executive they decided that nothing less elaborate than a solid gold medal would serve to mark his heroism. Silver would do for the unofficer life savers.

Furthermore, this devoted band agreed among themselves to